



September 2010



The Geico Skytypers fly in formation over an F-100 sitting on the ramp at the Westfield International Air Show on Friday Aug 20, 2010.
(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)



Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

AIRSCOOP

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Commander's column

By Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

BARNESTORMERS; I will not be exaggerating by saying the 104th Fighter Wing demonstrated one of the most successful air shows this season, and possibly of the last several seasons. I witnessed firsthand the professionalism, patriotism and pride that make you stand out above all other units.

I personally received compliments from performers, elected officials and spectators, all of which could not stop talking about the individual efforts that made this event so successful. We personally impressed 250,000 community members, which does so much in the way of garnering much needed public support.

That support is critical as we move forward to our next objective, successfully completing an Air Combat Command Inspector General inspection while simultaneously sending troops down range and supporting our homeland defense mission with the Air Sovereignty Alert. These are no small tasks independently, but coupled together, they are going to need the full attention of each and everyone of you to ensure we successfully complete our objectives.

Each person plays a part, and I know I have said this before, but it is worth repeating, personal responsibility and professional competence is what makes us great. I rely on each and everyone of you to do the J-O-B you were tasked to complete, to the best of your ability.

I had the pleasure of spending some time with one of the units' forefathers. Maj. Gen John J. Sevila (ret) along with Maj. Gen Myrle Langley (ret), were quick to point out the legacy of

the 104th FW lives on in the Airmen of today. They spoke of their days flying F-100 and F-86s, describing some of the challenges they faced. They reminded me though the challenges are different, the way to a successful end stays the same... commitment to excellence, leadership from all levels, and a willingness to succeed.

These men, along with their fellow wingmen stated time and time again, that they saw the same burning desire in the eyes of today's unit members that they saw 50 years ago, and they were certain we would succeed, which is honestly a BarnStormers standard.

Stay focused, learn from previous mistakes, and keep a positive mental attitude.

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Chief Master Sergeant's column

By Guest Author, Chief Master Sgt. Jack Major, AMXS Superintendent

It's never easy to say good bye. For those who don't know, this September drill is my last. I had planned to stick around until the end of the year, but recently changed rules, regulations and directives said it was time for Chief Jack to go. 30 September 2010 is my last day in the ranks of the 104th, both technician and military. It is a bittersweet moment to say the least. You look forward to retirement your entire life and when you finally arrive at that point, **it's somewhat intimidating.**

I won't bore you with a lot of useless words. I will bore you with a few words of sentiment. Bear with me.

It's been my pleasure to work with each and every one of you in this organization we call the 104th Fighter Wing. I point with pride at the Airman and NCO's I have had the privilege of working with, and for, over the years. **Never...ever in the history of this organization has there been a more dedicated, professional and harder working group of men and women than there is today.** I mean that. **The rule of today's world is doing more with less.** You do a lot more with a lot less and somehow, you still manage to get the J-O-B done. Your work ethic and professionalism are second to none. It never mattered what the weather was doing; it never mattered what time it was; it just never mattered. **As a Chief, I wouldn't want it any other way.**

Any Chief owes his Chiefly existence to the troops **who got them to the position. I'm no different.** I owe who I am to you. I am a Chief because of you. I filled my PME squares and I fulfilled my social obligations, **but I wouldn't have been Chief Jack, without you.** A Chief is only as good as the people he or she has under their charge. And, I have had the privilege of working with the best. I have never, **for one moment, doubted that. Never...ever.** There are a number of phenomenal people in this Wing. **There is no shortage of "out of the box" thinkers and doers.** I've been TDY to a number of other units over the years and I am constantly amazed at how you do business. I arrived at Barnes back in September of 1984,

fresh from eleven years of active duty Air Force. A young Staff Sergeant, I continued in my chosen career field as an A-10 Crew Chief. In the years since "84", **I've witnessed more change than a New England Patriots team roster.** Tactical Fighter Group to Fighter Group to Fighter Wing. Aircraft change from A-10 to F-15. Mission change from Close Air Support to Air Sovereignty. People, facilities, and process automation into all facets of the mission. Many changes positive; some not so much. I long for the days of the pencil, eraser and paper.

In the days of the A-10, we were at the top of the heap. With the arrival of the F-15, we find ourselves at a training and execution short term disadvantage. You will overcome that disadvantage and return to the days of CAF glory in the near future. It takes time, but you are well on the way.

A somewhat bumpy road lies ahead. There are **more trials and tribulations on the horizon.** I won't go into details. You know what they are. You will prevail. I have every confidence in your ability, and the ability of the enlisted and command leadership within the Wing.

Well folks....it's been a pleasure. From myself and Annette, my wife of 31 years, along with and my daughters Raena and Adrienne...thank you for your support over the years. It has been my privilege to serve with you in the most noble of professions.



(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)



First Sergeant's column

By Master Sgt. Fred Fopiano, Mission Support Group 1st Sgt.

Why are we here? I'm speaking of the full-time manning - AGR's and Technicians. Why are we here Monday thru Friday?

As in previous articles I have written, the primary reason is to take care of our Airmen. We are the small contingent that is responsible for keeping the base readied for the entire traditional force. Regardless of what you think; we are here to support them, not just to turn the lights on every day.

Our drill status Guardsmen make the trip out to Barnes roughly once a **month, and during that time there's** lots for them to accomplish. They are **responsible to complete CBT's, attend meetings, training, CDC's, uniform** issue and the list goes on and on. Their day is jam packed to say the least, but

quite often you will hear or see them claiming that they have nothing to do. Why is that?

That's where you as the full-timer comes into play. If they don't have what they need to complete their tasks - **can't find equipment, didn't know that** there was training - **who's to blame?**

We need to be proactive and have their schedules prepared, equipment ready **to go, etc...** **Now that's not to say our Airmen can't help themselves when the need arises. If we've trained them** properly, prepared them by giving them guidance and afforded them increasing levels of responsibilities, we can step back and see how they perform.

Each section must ensure all of their personnel receive the proper training. In this, however, we as full-timers have

to be consistent and united with our plan. If we as full-timers are not working together for the common goal of educating and preparing our Airmen, then we fail as a Wing.

Next time someone is complaining that drill is boring, or they are just sitting there watching TV while they should be performing some type of task, step up and assist in guiding them to the appropriate responsibilities these Traditional Guardsmen need to accomplish. As a Guardsman, go to the full-time staff and find out what needs to be done to ensure we as a base are **"battle ready"**. **No one wants to fail, but** without taking up the responsibilities, failure is the only option.

We don't have time to train under-fire. Be active. Be cognizant. Be ready.



Safety: How goes it!

By Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Dumais

Since the last UTA, we have experienced 6 injuries and 2 mishaps.

Injuries

- Off duty worker lacerated eye; Ceiling fan impact; Situational awareness; Stitches
- Worker injured finger; Inserted in pinch point; Improper procedure; 1st Aid
- Worker broke ankle; Stepping over fence; Foot caught causing twist motion; Lost Time

Mishaps

- PMV2 damage during lunch; Impact by POV4W; PMV4 inattention; Minor damage
- GOV4 damage; Impact by weapon during exercise; Situational awareness; \$200
- PMV4 damaged during lunch; Car totaled; Other PMV operator; 5K+
- GOV4 damaged; Impact overhead door; Improper procedure/awareness; \$1445

- POV4 damaged hangar; impact downspout; No spotter/clearance; \$200
- GOV4 damaged; Impact bollard; Inexperience and clearance; \$654

This month we can again see that situational awareness and following proper procedures are still important no matter what we are doing. Since the last UTA we again see that vehicles are our biggest items of concern in regards to mishaps involving property damage. This month we have included some POV incidents that took place off duty during lunch. Although these are not reportable recordable events, we all need to take heed to the lessons they teach us. The same holds true for our one off duty injury involving one of our AGR personnel. The lesson that we ask **you to look at is that you can't let your** guard down and situational awareness, and wearing PPE is not something that ends when you leave work. Any of these events could have resulted in a much worse outcome. For the GOV and

PMV operators, proper training, wearing your seatbelt, and operating at a reasonable speed meant everyone walked away. For the personnel who were injured, we think you will agree, none of them intended on getting hurt. So if they did not intend on getting hurt, why did they? The answer can be complicated, but basically stated, we can tell you for a split second they did not apply ORM or PRM. At the very start of whatever they were doing, they did not use proper hazard control, and fate reared its ugly head.

Our recommendation to you is simple. Before you do anything, ask yourself what can go wrong, and what the hazards are. It can be the rotating ceiling fan, or the potential for a vehicle accident. Once you do this, you can then look at the prevention and control methods. We hope that all of the information above is used in a positive way to help better our safety posture, so we **can continue to "Make it happen; SAFELY!"** The Safety Staff

Editorial: Successful air show is an understatement

By Maj. Matthew Mutti, Wing Executive Officer

With more than 250,000 spectators in attendance, the Westfield International Air Show, in conjunction with the Barnes Air National Guard Base Open House, was more successful than planners had anticipated.

But the attendance figures only represent a fraction of the shows success. The show was much more than a family entertainment event and many of the shows true successes may be hidden by the hype of news reports highlighting a 30 mile long traffic backup leading into the show.

In a single day, the show attendance grew nearly 200% from any previous show hosted at Barnes Municipal Airport. This increase in size demonstrated the overwhelming support the community has for its Guard. It also provided a great opportunity for the community to learn what their men and women in uniform do each and every day defending freedom.

As one of the show planners, I had a chance to look at the show from a different perspective, not just as a spectator or a participant. I, along with other members of the planning team, had a chance to interact with all the agencies that helped put this show together. Each organization, from the Mass Department of Transportation, to the local business who vacated their buildings during the Thunderbird performance, to the countless supporters and sponsors; each played a unique and very valuable role in the show. In our plan-

ning meetings, which began in January, we conferred with 20 different agencies to ensure a safe and successful event, and despite some traffic congestion, there was not a single negative incident in conjunction with the show.

One of the hidden successes could be seen in the way the members of the 104th Fighter Wing worked along side its city and state counterparts. This show provided a great chance for local and state organizations to work together in a non-emergency role, clearly highlighting one of the greatest strengths of the Guard, its community ties.

Furthermore, the show provided an opportunity to give back to the community. Many of the concession stands were manned by community organizations, allowing them a **chance to benefit from the show's** success.

We have solicited feedback from the spectators, performers, and partnering organizations to learn from what went right and wrong during the show. All the feedback was very constructive, and an overwhelming majority resonated the same themes: Professionalism, Dedication, Team Work, and Service.

I was not surprised when I read notes from families who waited in traffic that they wished would have moved more quickly, but many of the **notes read the same way, I'll para-**

phrase: Once we got to the parking lots, the volunteers parked us very quickly, and we were through the gates, we met many very nice people in uniform, helping us find different aircraft, or helping us find a good place to watch the show, despite the wait in traffic, it was an amazing show, we can't wait till the next



F-16 races over the runway during the show Sunday. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)

one...and next time we will leave the house earlier.

What many people did not see was the way the members of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Team, with the Mass State Police, Westfield Police and base representatives worked very diligently to alleviate as much of the traffic congestion as they could control. Watching real-time video from the state police helicopters, traffic was diverted, manpower was shifted, all in efforts to help ease congestion. All said, on Saturday we filled each of the five parking lots by 3:30 pm, an hour before the show ended.

On Sunday, despite predictions of inclement weather, the show still hosted 60-70,000 spectators and were able to fly 19 of the 35 performing aircraft. The families still had an opportunity to walk around the 70+ aircraft that were on display, meet with members of the unit and partners, to learn about the positive **impact of today's military forces.**

Clearly, the show was a success on more levels than just by the number of spectators that arrived. From **sharing the Guard's story, to working side-by-side** other critical support agencies, to partnering with many local businesses, the show did much more than delight families, it demonstrated a community commitment and dedication to excellence.



Working dogs from State/City Police as well as the Air Force Reserves working together. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin)

Political considerations for guardsmen

By Staff Sgt. Kristin Anderson, Legal

It's that time of the year again with Massachusetts State Primary elections September 14th 2010 and the State election November 2nd 2010 and thus we must discuss what you can and can't do as a member of the Air National Guard.

DoD policy encourages civilian DoD employees and members of the Armed Forces to carry out the obligations of citizenship to the maximum extent possible consistent with the restrictions imposed by law. While members of the Air National Guard and its civilian employees are encouraged to carry out their responsibilities as citizens, they may be, in certain situations, limited or prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities. Thus, political activities are subject to certain statutory and regulatory restrictions, and violations may be chargeable under a state Military Justice Code provision.

As you read this article, a few things should be apparent:

Traditional Guard members are not restricted in their political activities to the same extent as active duty Title 10 personnel; the rationale for many of the restrictions on the political activities of traditional Guard members is the use of their position as Guard members while engaging in or supporting political activities; there are more restrictions on political activities of federal technicians than on traditional Guard members; the restrictions on AGRs are probably closer to those on Title 10 active duty personnel than to those on traditional Guard members; and there are more restrictions on officers than enlisted personnel.

Air National Guard personnel are expected and encouraged to carry out their responsibilities as citizens of the United States. Accordingly, they retain the right to: Register and vote in any election; **Express personal opinions as individual's** citizens on candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the military; Make voluntary campaign contributions to political parties or organizations, subject to certain limitations (For specific limitations please see the legal office) Attend partisan and nonpartisan political gatherings as spectators when not in uniform; Campaign for, and hold, elective partisan and non-partisan civil office if held in a

private capacity which does not interfere with the performance of military duties as long as they are not serving on extended active duty (in excess of 270 days). (ANG personnel may not, however, use their military status as a political selling point, e.g., no use of government facilities and no campaigning in uniform).

In the course of their private political activities, military members and federal employees may also:

1. Sign petitions for specific legislative **action or place a candidate's name on an** official ballot, provided the signing is not an obligation to engage in partisan political activity and is taken as a private citizen and not as a representative of the Air National Guard;
2. Write personal letters to newspaper editors expressing personal views concerning public issues. Provided those views do not attempt to promote a partisan political cause;
3. Write personal letters, not for publication, expressing preference for a specific political candidate or cause, provided the action is not part of an organized letter-writing campaign on behalf of a partisan political cause or candidate;
4. Join political clubs and attend meetings or rallies when not in uniform;
5. Serve as election officials and perform nonpartisan duties, provided such does not interfere with efficient performance of military or official duties and such services are performed while not in uniform;
6. Commanders may also appoint voting officers to provide voting information and applications for absentee ballots under AFI 36-3107; and may allow time off for members to vote;
7. Display political stickers on private vehicles or wear political badges or buttons when not in uniform and not on duty;
8. Serve in a local part-time nonpartisan civil office, either elective or appointive (examples are local school board or planning commission);
9. National Guard members may also hold certain federal, state, and local appointed or elected full-time civil offices

(examples are U.S. Attorney and state judge) if not prohibited by federal or state statutes or regulations. Prior to seeking election or appointment to a civil office, the member should determine whether the holding of that office will **adversely affect the member's ability to** continue as a military member; and

10. Participate in local nonpartisan political campaigns (e.g. issues relating to constitutional amendments, referenda, municipal ordinances) when not in uniform and not interfering with military duties (see AFR110-2, Attach 1 C3).

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Members of the Air National Guard taking part in local partisan or nonpartisan political activity will not: Wear a uniform while campaigning or use any property or facilities of the government in the campaign; or Allow participation to interfere with or prejudice performance of military duties. Use of base facilities, clubs, and meeting areas to support partisan campaign activities is prohibited. Members of the National Guard must not use their **POSITIONS** in the National Guard (such as by campaigning in uniform or using **one's rank or grade**) to assist them in obtaining political office or endorsing a political candidate or issue.

ACTIVITIES NOT EXPRESSLY ALLOWED OR PROHIBITED

Some of the political activities not expressly prohibited would be contrary to the spirit and intent of governing regulations and directives. Accordingly, in determining whether or not any activity violates the traditional concept that military personnel must not engage in partisan political activity, rules of reason and common sense apply. Any activity that reasonably could be interpreted as associating the Department of Defense or any element thereof directly or indirectly with a partisan political cause or candidate must be avoided.

For further information on political activities and do's and don'ts for National Guard members please see the 104th Legal Office.



Air Force launches new uniform website

By Staff Sgt. Steve Grever, Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Air Force launched a new public website this month to help educate and inform Airmen **about the service's dress and appearance standards and policies.**

The Air Force Directorate of Service's Uniforms and Recognition Branch created the website in conjunction with the Air Force Personnel Center and several other agencies that features interactive slideshows, uniform regulations, detailed photos and uniform policy updates from the Air Force Uniform Board.

Ruth Ewalt, the Air Force Uniforms and Recognition Branch director, said the new website was developed to be a comprehensive online resource that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for Airmen stationed around the world.

"We wanted to create a place where all Airmen can view any uniform combination in detail," Mrs. Ewalt said. "This eliminates confusing ru-

mors about the latest versions of Air Force uniforms."

Airmen also wanted an uncomplicated website that was user friendly and did not require excessive navigation to find information about different combinations of the Air Force uniform.



"We needed a website that would not take more than two or three clicks of the mouse to get an answer to a uniform inquiry," she said.

Having this information on a public website ensures uniform changes and

updates are available to the field in a timely manner than that waiting for updates to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, which is being revised.

"The information will be updated quicker and more effectively," she said.

Putting the website in the public domain allows users to access it without their Common Access Card, which is helpful for Airmen researching uniform information from computers or smart phones off the military network.

While the new site will be a valuable resource, Airmen should continue to work through their chain of command for clarification and guidance on Air Force dress and appearance standards and policies. For more information, visit the Air Force Dress and Appearance public website at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dress/index.asp>

Civic leader tour

By Maj. Matthew T. Mutti, Wing Executive Officer

ESGR is a support organization that reaches out to local employers, educating them on the Guard and Reserve mission.

This month, ESGR will host an employer orientation at Barnes, educating 37 Air and Army National Guard Employers on the missions of the two units at Barnes and how they can support their employees in uniform.

The 104th hosts groups like this frequently. On August 18th, the base hosted 40 civil leaders from Georgia who traveled up to learn about the functions both Barnes and Westover

serve within the Combat Air Force.

The trip, hosted by Col Robert Swian, the 439th Air Wing Commander at Westover, brought business and community leaders from the Robins Air Force Bases area in Georgia to Barnes to see how the Reserve and Guard forces complement each other, and how different one **wing's mission may be** from another.

This group spent two days in Western Mass.,

culminating their trip with an orientation at Barnes. The civic leaders received an F-15 capabilities brief and a lesson on ASA operations, then toured an F-15 before heading back to Georgia on a C-5 aircraft.



Special guests attend the air show

By Maj. Matthew Mutti, Executive Officer

Many special guests traveled long and far to be part of the Barnes Open House. All had a unique story to tell and a deep connection to the men and women of the 104th Fighter Wing.



Gen. Myrle Langley and Col. Alan Reid stand by an F-100 during the Westfield International Air Show (Republican Newspaper Photo)

Over the weekend the show hosted one group whose names read like they were from a history book; partly because they were. Gen. John J. Sevilla, now 95, Gen. Myrle Langley, 74, Col. David Cummock, 73, and Col. Alan Reid, 73 were among the former 131 Fighter Squadron F-100 pilots who came out to the air show for their second reunion in nearly 6 years.

Gen. Sevilla (ret) is the oldest living former commander and his trip from the Cape was very nostalgic.

"I remember," said Sevilla, **"walking outside (Bldg 001) when it was first built, seeing P-47s on the field, later we saw the transition to P-51s and then through the jet age."** Gen Sevilla was the leader of one of the first F(P)-51 aerial demonstration teams in the guard; demonstrating at air shows and open houses from 1951-1954.

Sevilla was also the commander from 1970 to 1973. He, along with Langley, Cummock, Reid, and Col Boulanger (ret) all flew the F-100 while assigned to Barnes. In total there were 52 former 'Hun' drivers for a very special show, which highlighted one of the last flying F-100s in the country.

In addition to former commanders, we also hosted former Adjutant General Gen Keefe and many state and local officials.

During the Friday Night **Commander's Reception and Vietnam Veteran Dinner**, the wing also had the distinct pleasure of hosting one of the heroes from the Vietnam War, Mr. Bill Guenon Jr. Mr. Guenon was a key participant in the 1970 Son Tay P.O.W. Camp raid where he flew the lead C-130E along with 6 helicopters only 20 miles from Hanoi.

He shared stories with more than 500



Mr. Bill Guenon Jr. Speaks at the Commander's Reception (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)

local veterans and invited guests about his missions over the heart of Vietnam.

The show also provided a perfect venue for the wing to present a new award recognizing Airmen who deployed since Sept 11, 2001, in support of either Operation Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle. The Hometown hero awards were presented to 100 unit members during the show, and will be presented to an additional 200 members later in the year.



Lt. Jamie Stebbins, Col. Brooks and Lt. Governor Murray stand by while Murray's daughter Helen pets a jet. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)

On Sunday, Lt. Governor Timothy Murray, along with his daughters Helen and Katherine, traveled out to the show to enjoy the events as well as to present 50 Hometown Heroes awards.

Unlike our other guests, two long-time Westfield residents, Matt and David Gonyea spent a day unlike any other; they were able to attend the Westfield Air Show and be the guests of Col Brooks during the arrival day.

Both Matt and David are some of the biggest 104th FW fans you will ever



Col. EJ Gunning and Col. James Keefe pose with Matt and David Gonyea during family day at Barnes. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin)

meet, but due to medical limitations, they never had a chance to come to an air show before. Col Brooks, his wife April, and other members of the Wing Staff spent the day with them. **"They are two amazing gentlemen,"** said Mrs. Brooks, **"It was an absolute joy sharing in their excitement as they watched the acts perform."**



(Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin)

Meet your Family Readiness Group Board



From left to right:

Pat Connors - Chairperson

Lyn Richards - Secretary

Kneeling, Tina Dimino-Frazer - Youth Coordinator,

Sandy Wakefield - Wing Family Coordinator

Cindy Patnode - Treasurer



Cindy Patnode - Treasurer

Each month one Family Readiness Board Member will be featured

Cindy Patnode has been with the Family Readiness Group since 2003 when the base was activated overseas for Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2004, she has served as treasurer of **Family Readiness Group**. You've seen her around helping with Easter Hunt, Spaghetti Suppers, Children's Halloween Party, Children's Christmas Party, Children Bowling, parades, and trips.

To stay current, she attends the yearly training at the Massachusetts National Guard Family Conference in Southbridge, MA. This year Cindy was recognized for over 100 hours of volunteer service and was issued a

Presidential Volunteer Award Certificate with a bronze pin. Cindy has received in the past, 2 - 104th Family Readiness Group Awards.

She's been married for 13 years to Master Sgt. Rick Patnode of the 104th Maintenance Squadron and lives in Westfield, MA. Has three daughters, Melissa, Heather, Charity, and step-daughter Jennifer. Seven grandchildren: Merissa, Gabriella, Dylan, Ethan, Jacob, and 13 month old twin girls, Amanda and Abbiegail.

In her spare time, she love gardening, relaxing by her large Koi pond watching her fish, scrapbooking, making

cards, making gifts/crafts, knitting, and painting. She is always gardening at home making new gardens and **volunteer gardening at her church's** grounds.

Last year she and her husband finished building a very large pond and are now members of the Pioneer Valley Garden Tour. This year viewers voted their pond and landscaping as the best of 21 homes. She is also a Co-Chair for the PTO school and Chairman of the Board of Pioneer Valley Water Garden and Koi Club.



New Chaplain back in town

By Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

His Father served in Phalsbourg France with the 104th as a weapons loader and John was an avionics member for 12 years before retiring to run a local restaurant chain, *Hot Table*.

A Cathedral High School graduate, DeVoie grew up in Springfield, Mass., then later graduated from UMass Lowell where he completed Air Force ROTC.

He now lives in Warren, Mass. with his wife Sharon, son and daughter, as he serves as the pastor of the Emmanuel Orthodox Catholic Church.

Fr. DeVoie originally commissioned in 1992 after serving as an enlisted member of the Coast Guard from 1983.

Following a break in service, he followed his calling and became an ordained Orthodox Priest in 2003.

Since his ordination, Fr. DeVoie has been working to establish churches in Western Mass. for the past 10 years. He helped found the Emmanuel Church in West Brookfield and **St. Stephen's Church in Springfield**.

After a stint in the Coast Guard, Fr. (Capt.) Kenneth DeVoie has found a new home back in the Pioneer Valley, here at the 104th Fighter Wing. He is following in his father, Robert, and his brother John's, footsteps.

VA expands Agent Orange presumptive list for vets

Submitted by Ms. Sandra Wakefield

Veterans exposed to herbicides while deployed in Vietnam will have greater access to health care and disability compensation under a final Department of Veterans Affairs regulation published in the Aug. 31 Federal Register.

The new rule expands the list of health problems VA will presume to be related to Agent Orange and other herbicide exposures, adding two new conditions and expands one existing category of conditions, the VA said.

To the presumptive list, the VA is adding Parkinson's disease and

ischemic heart disease and expanding chronic lymphocytic leukemia to include all chronic B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia.

In practical terms, veterans who served in Vietnam during the war, **and who have a "presumed" illness, don't have to prove an association** between their medical problems and their military service. By helping vets overcome evidentiary requirements that might otherwise present significant challenges, this **"presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process**, VA said.

Vets who served in Vietnam anytime from Jan. 9, 1962, to May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides. More than 150,000 veterans are expected to submit Agent Orange claims in the next 12 to 18 months. Many are potentially eligible for retroactive disability payments based on past claims, said VA Secretary Eric Shinseki.

To see more, go to:

<http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pre-release.cfm?id=1945>

Paraguay's prepared for emergencies

By Maj. Matthew Mutti, Wing Executive Officer



For the second time in two years, the members of the 104th Fighter Wing hosted a delegation from the Paraguayan Air Force during a State Partnership Program visit 18 through 22 August.

During this visit, five Paraguayan Air Force members learned many aspects of Emergency and Disaster Preparedness. Members of the SPP team have been preparing for this engagement for sev-

eral years through traveling to Paraguay and teaching the members of the PAF on aspects of Emergency Management. This visit took the many years of training, and demonstrated all the principals at work.

"We worked very hard to develop a good foundation in the principals of Emergency Management during our previous trips to Paraguay", said Lt. Col.

Matt Gage, SPP Coordinator.

The Paraguayan delegation began their trip at Logan Airport where they were able to speak with Airport officials about their many plans for dealing with aircraft related emergencies.

Following that exploration visit to Logan, the team traveled to Westfield to learn about the planning involved with hosting a world class air show.

The team met with base and municipal representatives and learned about the many collaborative agreements that allow for a successful show.

"We discussed the importance of the Major Accident Exercise, and how to apply the lessons-learned when hosting an event of this magnitude." said Master Sgt. Tim Mutti, 104th Emergency Manager.



Guard Care 2010

By Maj. Matthew Mutti, Executive Officer

During an event affectionately called "Guard Care", members of the 104th Medical Group provided free back-to-school physicals to more than 200 students who are enrolled in the local Head Start programs.

The children come from Head Start locations throughout the Westfield Region and rely on Guard Care to ensure the students are ready to attend the school program. Guard Care, which is in its 15th year, annually provides a full back-to-school physical to more than 200 children. The physical includes: height, weight, blood pressure, hearing, vision and dental screening, all the requirements for the students to enroll in Head Start. Many of the children who attend this program would not be able to afford this required physical if it weren't provided, resulting in fewer children being able to enroll in the Head Start program.

"The medical professionals assigned to the 104th Fighter Wing's Medical

Group are always ready to deploy and support our military all over the globe, but for more than a decade,



Airman 1st Class Kali Nunez checks a child's blood pressure during Guard Care on September 9, 2010. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis)

they have put their talents to work **locally during 'Guard Care', helping** parents meet their children's back-to-

school medical requirements throughout the Greater Westfield community," said Maj. Gen. Michael D. Akey, Commander of the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

"We look forward to working with the community at every opportunity," said Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr., 104th Fighter Wing Commander. "This program allows us to demonstrate the amazing capabilities of our people, as well as, provide a critical service to our neighbors. We are proud of our community and the relationship we share; this is one of many ways we can give back."

The program this year is being organized by Senior Amn. Charlie Diaz, of Westfield, who serves as an immunization specialist at Barnes Air National Guard Base. "The entire clinic looks forward all year long to working with these children; it is such a privilege to give back to these families," said Diaz.

Air Guard supports potential hurricane strike

By Maj. Matthew Mutti, Executive Officer

What makes the Guard unique? There are many answers to that questions, but the most obvious is the relationship to the state were they reside. The Guards were created though the US Constitution to provide safety and security to the residents of the state; specifically in a time of distress or disaster.

In that context, the men and women from the Mass. National Guard were ready to provide support in the event Hurricane Earl had struck the Massachusetts coast.

Within hours, 15 volunteers from the 104th were staged along with additional Mass National Guard troops, ready to respond. From Public Affairs to vehicle operators and communication specialists, the Guard was ready.

Thank you for sacrificing your Labor Day weekend to ensure the state was ready to respond:

1Lt Stebbins
MSgt Perry
TSgt Mutti
TSgt Melvin
TSgt Stanley
SrA Hammond
SSgt Harrison
SSgt Landon
SSgt Kane
SSgt Madry
SSgt Picard
SSgt Smith
SrA Kolesnikovas
SrA Mathieu
A1C Dubois



Mass National Guard Soldiers and Airmen line up, ready to respond. (photo by TSgt. Anthony Mutti)

USO supported the air show - Aquanett rocks the Wing

Submitted by Base USO Liaison, Capt. Dean Lambert

If you were anywhere near the NCO club on Sunday night after the air show and heard music, it wasn't a DJ. Nor was it Col. Gwosch singing karaoke while performing choreographed dance moves. Actually, it was one of the best cover bands in the northeast, Aquanett, performing for the men and women of the 104th Fighter Wing.

Aquanett played three sets from 6 to 11 p.m. and even came back for an encore to a very excited and enthusiastic crowd. Playing mostly songs from the 80s/90s hair band days, it was easy to see that everyone enjoyed themselves signing along with the band.

"I thought they had a DJ here when I first walked in", stated Col. Robert Brooks, Commander of the 104th Fighter Wing, "These guys sound Great!"

The band was sponsored by the Pioneer Valley USO, which supports many events, deployments and now even concerts at the unit. You're probably used to seeing Dott and Clyde down at Bldg. 008 during UTA weekends or deployment send offs. Although they love

supporting the 104th, Dott and Clyde would be the first to tell you that there are several other USO volunteers "behind the scenes" that make supporting military events possible.

Col. Brooks later joined Mr. Bruce Marshall of the Pioneer Valley USO council up on stage to thank the men and women of the 104th for their hard work and dedication in supporting the Westfield International Air Show.

During the event, Aquanett also stressed their support for the men and women in uniform.

Besides supporting unit members at home station, the USO also strives to support military personnel while they are deployed. If you have someone deployed from your section that you think would like a USO care package, simply contact the Pioneer Valley USO Executive Director, Mr. Allan Tracy. He can be reached at Westover Air Reserve base by calling (413) 557-3290 or you can send him an e-mail at tracybrothers@verizon.net.

The USO tries to send out care pack-

ages to deployed personnel every Friday. All that AI needs is the person's APO address and roughly the last date at their deployed location. *This is only to ensure he is not sending a package after someone has redeployed back home.



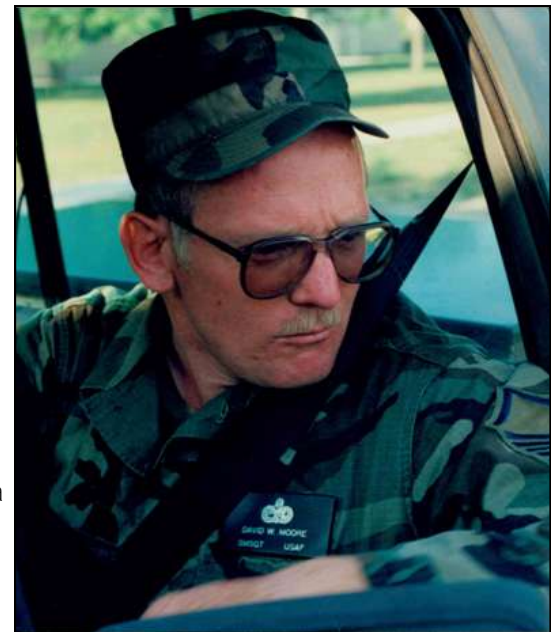
Aquanett promo picture.

Cards for Hope ~ Update

Submitted by the Safety Office

Since the March Airscoop, the safety office was soliciting cards for Senior Master Sgt. Dave Moore (Retired), due to him being diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) six months after retiring. The Safety office would like to say thank you to everyone who has entered into the Bone Marrow Registry, sent him a card, and had him and his family in their thoughts during this tough time. We are happy to announce that a donor was found for him and on 19 August 2010 he underwent his transplant. He has done well with it so far and due to him doing so well they have released him to go home. On Saturday, September 4, 2010, he re-

turned home and is being monitored as an outpatient. If you sent a card to UMASS Medical Center, it will be forwarded to his home address. If you would like to congratulate him by sending a card to his home, his address is 58 Buttonwood Ave, Sutton, MA 01590. If anyone has any questions or would like to enter the Marrow registry to be a possible donor, you are asked to contact Senior Master Sgt. Tom Dumais in the Wing Safety Office. Thank you all again for showing great support to one of our own! The Safety Staff.



Vietnam Veteran, MA ANG Retiree
David W. Moore, SMSgt MA ANG, Retiree,
3 July 2009

For Your Information

Military Day at the Big E

Free Admission for Military and Veterans to the Big E, September 17th

Admission to the Big E will be free to all military personnel and veterans September 17, 2010. For more information please visit the below link.

http://www.thebige.com/fair/generalinfo/date_hours.asp



Family Readiness Events - Mark your calendars

Event: Alumni Dinner
Date: Wednesday - 15 Sep
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: NCO Club

Event: Pasta Night
Date: Wednesday - 22 Sep
Time: 4:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Location: Dining Facility

Event: Halloween/Haunted Hayride
Date: Friday - 29 Oct
Time: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Event: Children's Christmas Party
Date: Sunday - 5 Dec
Time: 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.

National Guard seeks feedback special needs families

NGB is actively working with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and all Parent Service Organizations (Army, AF, Navy, and Marines) to add additional support services for Families with Special Needs (Exceptional Family Member Program-EFMP). NGB needs your feedback to determine the scope of the needs and the most important issues impacting these families. Your survey feedback will directly affect proper allocation of resources to support our Families with Special Needs. All Soldiers, Airmen, Family members of service members, and ARNG/ANG Family Program staff are encouraged to participate. The Guard Family Special Needs Survey assessment WILL ONLY TAKE APPROXIMATELY TWO MINUTES OR LESS, and will be available until 31 Aug. To complete the survey, please click on the following link to the Joint Services Support (JSS) webpage:

<https://www.jointservicessupport.org/Survey/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=403>

MNGEA
Massachusetts National Guard
Enlisted Association

Call To Conference!
25 September 2010

Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center
1657 Worcester Rd. Framingham, MA 01701 (\$89.00/Night)
Reserve online www.starwoodmeetings.com/Book/MNGEA
or call Phone: 800.325.3535

0730-0845 Registration, Vendor Exhibits & Light Refreshments
0900-1500 General Session (buffet lunch available)
1530-2100 Hospitality Suite Hosted by MNGEA & Military Friends Foundation

Information Booths Include:

- Military One Source
- Tri-Care
- Family Readiness Group
- The Vet Center
- Military Friends Foundation
- SSLI & USAA

Bike Rally

24 Sept 2010
Starts @ 1100 Milford
Ends @ 1500 Framingham
With a \$2,500.00 Raffle

POC: Rick Bahre
richard.bahre@us.army.mil

For Your Information

Tricare retired reserves launches

Submitted by Ms. Sandra Wakefield, Family Support Coordinator

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – For the first time, members of the Retired Reserve who are not yet age 60, the so-called “gray area” retirees, can purchase TRICARE health coverage for themselves and their eligible family members with the Sept. 1, 2010 launch of TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR).

“This new program offers a health coverage opportunity for “gray area” Guardsmen and Reservists who served America honorably, setting a proud example for today’s forces,” said Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, deputy director of the TRICARE Management Activity. “TRICARE Retired Re-

serve will provide an outstanding health benefit.”

Retired Reservists may qualify to purchase TRR coverage if they are under the age of 60 and are not eligible for, or enrolled in, the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program. They must also be members of the Retired Reserve of a Reserve component and qualified for non-regular retirement. For instructions on how to qualify for and purchase TRR go to www.tricare.mil/trr <<http://www.tricare.mil/trr>> .

For calendar year 2010, the TRR member-only monthly premium is

\$388.31 (\$4,659.72 yearly), and the member and family monthly premium is \$976.41 (\$11,716.92 yearly). Premiums will be adjusted annually.

The comprehensive health care coverage provided by the premium-based TRR is similar to TRICARE Standard. After purchasing TRR, members will receive the TRICARE Retired Reserve Handbook, which includes details about covered services, how to get care and who to contact for assistance. For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/trr

What’s My Line Winner!



(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)

Last month’s

winner is:

“If they hadn’t tried to light the grill with the afterburner, this would never have happened!!”

Submitted by Mrs. Beth St. Clair.

Last month’s runners-up are:

“I think Otis is in that direction?”

Submitted by Master Sgt. Eric Sabatinelli, 104 FW/CEF.

“Use the Force you will, fire extinguish you can”.
Submitted by Master Yoda (a.k.a Maj. Mutti)

What’s My Line?



(Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin)

Submit your funny, creative and appropriate caption for the photo on the right. We will run the winner and a runner-up in next months AirScoop. Submit your entry to: 104fw.pa@ang.af.mil

Congratulations to our Retirees

Belbin, Timothy	MXS	30 Aug 10
Jack Major	AMXS	30 Sept 10
Brady, John	MXS	30 Oct 10
Defranco, Anthony	MXS	13 Nov 10

First Sgt Vacancy - Medical Group

NOTE: Selectees may be moved to any valid First Sergeant Position within the wing at the request of the Wing Command Chief and with the concurrence of the unit Commander.

Position Title/Grade: First Sergeant / E-7

Unit: 104th Medical Group

Supervisor: 104th Medical Group Commander

Eligible applicants: Must be an E-7 or an E-6 who is immediately promotable to E-7. Position is a MINIMUM three year tour with a maximum of 6 years. Members must carefully review ANGI 36-2113 to ensure they meet minimum standards and qualifications for position requirements and responsibilities before applying.

Applicants must possess excellent communication and administrative skills, exceed fitness standards and exemplify Air Force Core values. Applicant must receive concurrence from current commander for consideration.

Applicant selected for this position must agree to serve tenure of no less than 3 years from date of graduating from First Sergeant Academy (FSA). If the member was a prior First Sergeant, the tenure starts the day of assignment. Applicant must have 3 years retainability prior to being placed in the UMD 8F000 position. Applicant must agree to complete the SNCO Academy Course in residence or by correspondence within 1 year from date of assignment. If a First Sergeant does not complete the SNCO Academy within 1 year from date of assignment, he/she must be removed from the position.

Training: Applicants (if selected) should be able to attend the First Sergeant Academy at Gunter Annex, AL at the earliest available school date and must complete the SNCOA in residence or by correspondence within 12 months of selection.

Application package must include:

- Cover sheet
- Letter of application (Describe what you can bring to the position)
- Resume
- Current passing fitness assessment
- RIP (record of individual personnel)
- Commander concurrence (letter or copy of email to 104FW/CCC)
- Letter of recommendation (optional)

Any package that is late or incomplete WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Submit Applications via electronic format (word, pdf, etc) via email to: Maj. Dave Mendoza, david.mendoza@ang.af.mil 104FW/DP, NLT 1200, 15 October 2010

Board date: TBD

For more information contact: CMSgt Al Reale at al-bert.reale@us.af.mil or 413-568-9151 x1778

Congratulations on your Promotions

To Senior Airman (E-4)

Cladi Rodriguez, 104 FW SFS

James Louis, 104 FW HQ



To Staff Sgt. (E-5)

Gary Teele, 104 MXS



To Master Sgt. (E-7)

Casey Walsh, 104 FW SFS



Command Chief Vacancy

Position Title/Grade: CMSgt/E-9

Eligible applicants: Must be a current CMSgt. Position is a MINIMUM three year tour with a maximum of 6 years. Members must carefully review ANGI 36-2109 to ensure they meet minimum standards and qualifications for position requirements and responsibilities before applying.

Applicant must have 3 years retainability prior to being placed in the UMD 9E000 position.

Applicants must possess excellent communication and administrative skills, exceed fitness standards and exemplify Air Force Core values.

For interested AGR/Technician personnel, the guidance contained in paragraph 2.3, ANGI 36-2101, *Assignments within the Air National Guard*, will be followed.

Training: If not completed, selectee must attend the **ANG Chiefs Executive Course, USAF Chief's Leadership Course** and the first available CCM orientation course no later than one year from selection. Selectee is authorized to wear the CCM insignia upon receiving a confirmed CCM orientation course school date.

Application package must include:

- Resume
- Letter of intent
- Current passing physical fitness score
- Record of individual personnel (RIP)
- Concurrence of their present commander (letter or email to 104FW/CCC)
- Letter of recommendation (optional)

Any package that is late or incomplete WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Submit Applications via electronic format (word, pdf, etc) via email to: Maj. Dave Mendoza, david.mendoza@ang.af.mil 104FW/DP, NLT 1200, 30

This Month in History

The back cover of the Airscoop is dedicated to the history of the unit and the Air Force. We will feature historic covers or articles from the archives and highlight a few historic headlines. (side note) From 1947 to 1954 the Base Newspaper was named the Thunderbolt. The first official Copy of the Airscoop was published in January 1954.

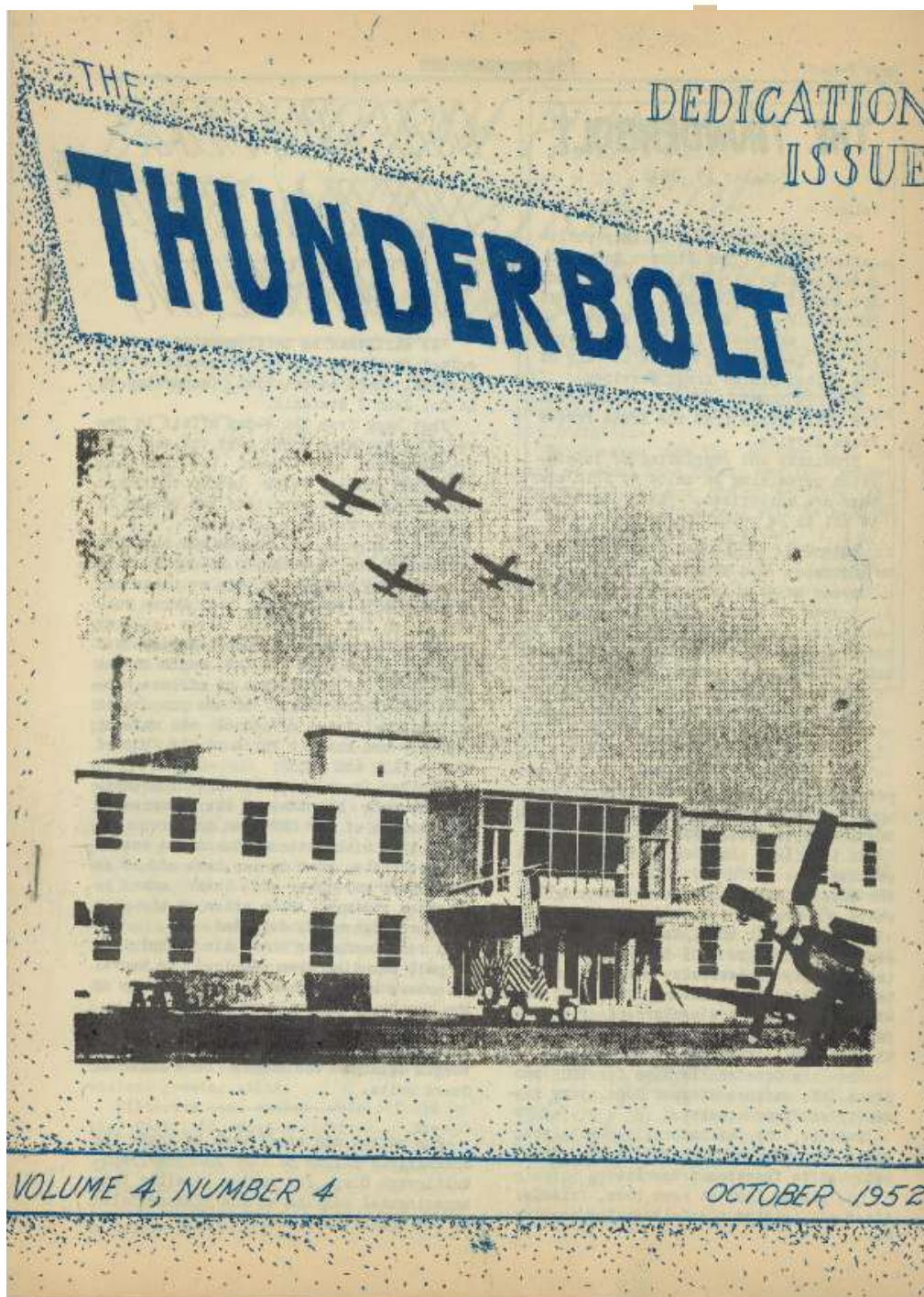
September Headlines:

Sept 18, 1947 - Air Force was established as a separate branch of the US Military.

Sept 30, 1949 - The Berlin Airlift concluded after 277,264 flights carrying over 2 million tons of supplies to the people of West Berlin, who were blockaded by the Soviets.

Sept 8, 1990 - Colonel Marcelite Jordan Harris is promoted to brigadier general, making her the first African American woman to achieve this rank in the United States Air Force.

Sept 11, 2001 - Two American Airline aircraft are used as weapons against the US, striking the World Trade Center. A third aircraft struck the Pentagon, and a fourth was forced down in Pennsylvania field.



MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Barnes Air National Guard Base
175 Falcon Drive
Westfield, MA 01805

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Official Web: www.104fw.ang.af.mil

Social Media Sites:
www.facebook.com/barnesang
www.twitter.com/104fighterwing
www.flickr.com/photos/barnesang
www.westfieldairshow.net



PRIDE
PROFESSIONALISM
PATRIOTISM

We're on the Web

WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL

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